

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A telephone, comprising:

an electronic telephone tone circuit, directly coupled to tip and ring telephone line, operable to detect electric ring signals on said tip and ring telephone line, said electric ring signals associated with a singular incoming telephone call, wherein a user-controlled ring-level option switch including a crescendo setting is coupled to said electronic telephone tone circuit;

a ring counter circuitry, coupled to said electronic telephone tone circuit, configured to count ring tone signals provided by said electronic telephone tone circuit in response to said electric ring signals; and

a volume control unit, coupled to said ring counter circuitry, configured to generate ringer control signals corresponding to the electric ring signals of the singular incoming telephone call, wherein the ringer control signals are capable of driving an audible ring signal generator without external power supply.

2. (Previously presented) The telephone of Claim 1, wherein at least one audible ring signal in the succession of audible ring signals has a volume that is higher than a volume of a preceding audible ring signal in the succession when a ringer option switch is set at a crescendo setting.

3. (Original) The telephone of Claim 2 wherein the audible ring generator comprises a piezo-electric device, a speaker, or other suitable sound-producing device.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) The telephone of Claim 1, wherein said audible ring generator is configured to provide a succession of audible ring signals, a first audible ring signal of the succession having a minimum volume and subsequent audible ring signals of the succession having increasing volume levels.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously presented) The telephone of Claim 1, further comprising:
a displayable menu system, coupled to said volume control unit, having a menu key, which when activated provides a user with one or more ringer options, including a crescendo ringing option;

8. (Currently amended) A telephone ringer apparatus, comprising:
an electronic telephone tone ringer configured to be coupled between tip and ring terminals of a telephone;
a user-controlled ringer ring-mode option switch coupled to said tone ringer having audible ring signal volume settings and a crescendo setting;
an audible ring signal volume controller coupled to said ringer option switch; and
an audible ring generating device, operable to generate a succession of audible ring signals characterized by a gradually increasing volume, said succession of audible ring signals corresponding to a succession of electrical ring signals of a singular incoming call received on

the tip and ring terminals of said telephone, wherein the telephone ringer apparatus is configured to operate within a power range supported by the tip and ring terminals of said telephone.

9. (Original) The telephone ringer apparatus of Claim 8, further comprising a ring counter coupled to said audible ring signal volume control operable to count the number of ring signals associated with an incoming telephone call.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A telephone, comprising:
an electronic telephone tone ringer coupled between tip and ring terminals of the telephone;
a user-controlled ringer ring-mode option switch coupled to said electronic telephone tone ringer having audible ring signal volume settings and a crescendo setting;
an audible ring signal volume controller coupled to said ringer option switch, configured to control volume of tone ringer; and
an audible ring generating device coupled to the audible ring signal volume controller, wherein the telephone is configured to operate within a power range supported by the tip and ring terminals of said telephone.

12. (Currently amended) A method of providing a telephone ringing signal, comprising:
selecting a gradual increase in audible ringing volume in response to a selection of a crescendo option from a user-controlled ring-mode option ~~slide~~ switch;

detecting a sequence of telephone electrical ring signals from a telephone line, said sequence of telephone electrical ring signals associated with a singular incoming telephone call; generating a sequence of ringer control signals from said sequence of electrical ring signals; and

drawing power from the telephone line to generate a sequence of audible ring signals using said sequence of ringer control signals, at least one audible ring signal of said sequence of audible ring signals having a volume that is greater than a preceding audible ring signal of said sequence of audible ring signals.

13. (Currently amended) A method of providing a telephone ringing signal, comprising:

detecting a sequence of electrical ring signals arriving on a telephone line, said sequence of electrical ring signals associated with a singular incoming telephone call;

determining whether a user-controlled ringer ring-mode option switch is set to a crescendo setting; and

drawing power from the telephone line to generate a sequence of audible ring signals corresponding to the detected sequence of electrical ring signals, a first of said sequence of audible ring signals having a first volume and one or more subsequent audible ring signals having a volume that is greater than the first volume.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, further comprising counting the number of detected electrical ring signals as the sequence of electrical signals arrives.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising generating a volume control signal for each detected electrical ring signal, each volume control signal having a value dependent upon the count number associated with the detected electrical ring signal.

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus for providing a telephone ringing signal, comprising:

means for selecting a gradual increase in audible ringing in response to a selection of a crescendo option from a user-controlled ring-mode option ~~slide~~ switch;

means for detecting a sequence of telephone electrical ring signals from a telephone line, said sequence of telephone electrical ring signals associated with a singular incoming telephone call;

means for generating a sequence of ringer control signals from said sequence of electrical ring signals; and

means for drawing power from the telephone line to generate a sequence of audible ring signals using said sequence of ringer control signals, at least one audible ring signal of said sequence of audible ring signals having a volume that is greater than a preceding audible ring signal of said sequence of audible ring signals.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for providing a telephone ringing signal, comprising:

means for detecting a sequence of electrical ring signals arriving on a telephone line, said sequence of electrical ring signals associated with a singular incoming telephone call;

means for determining whether a user-controlled ~~finger~~ ring-mode option switch is set to a crescendo setting; and

means for drawing power from the telephone line to generate a sequence of audible ring signals corresponding to the detected sequence of electrical ring signals, a first of said sequence of audible ring signals having a first volume and one or more subsequent audible ring signals having a volume that is greater than the first volume.

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16, further comprising means for counting the number of detected electrical ring signals as the sequence of electrical signals arrives.

19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising means for generating a volume control signal for each detected electrical ring signal, each volume control signal having a value dependent upon a count number associated with the detected electrical ring signal.

20. (Currently amended) A method of gently waking a sleeping person using a telephone, comprising:

selecting a gradual increase in audible ringing volume in response to a selection of a crescendo option from a user-controlled ring-mode option ~~slide~~ switch;

receiving a first electrical ring signal across tip and ring terminals of a telephone;

drawing power from the tip and ring terminals of a telephone to generate a first audible signal from the first electrical ring signal;

receiving a second ring signal across the tip and ring terminals of the telephone; and

generating a second audible signal from the second electrical ring signal, said second audible signal having a higher volume than the first audible signal;

wherein both the first and second ring signals are associated with a singular incoming telephone call.